

commanders, directing a comprehensive organizational-functional review to achieve the most efficient organization in every activity. This review will continue to direct and shape Fort Leonard Wood for the decade to come.

General Ballard's insightful planning brought to fruition the interservice training review organization. His mastery of installation management, extensive expertise on the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure Program, and tactical expertise in the combat support disciplines combined to promote Fort Leonard Wood as a TRADOC hub and future center for maneuver support training and combat developments and to consolidate the engineer, military police and chemical schools at Fort Leonard Wood. This exceptional vision and drive has ensured that Fort Leonard Wood will be a premier Force XXI Army Training Center.

General Ballard's accomplishments during his command of the Engineer Center at Fort Leonard Wood are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon him, the corps of engineers, and the U.S. Army. I wish him well in his new assignment as Chief of Staff of TRADOC. He and his wife Tessie made scores of friends in Missouri and we will miss them.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Houston Fire Department on its 100th anniversary and to salute these brave men and women who have served the city of Houston so well.

The full-time Houston Fire Department began at 1 minute past midnight on June 1, 1895 with 44 men and 40 horses in 7 stations to serve Houston's 9 square miles. Only 32,000 people lived in Houston, and downtown was just a few square blocks. Today, the department employs 3,115 firefighters in 81 stations that serve 1.65 million people who live throughout Houston's 594 square miles.

Today, Houston has the third largest fire department in the Nation, and its emergency medical service ambulance division is recognized as one of the Nation's best for trauma care. The department's hazardous materials response team is also among the world's most experienced in handling petrochemical leaks, spills, and incidents.

We seldom think of firefighters unless we hear a screaming siren or see the flashing light of a fire engine. But the fact that we don't think often about firefighters is a testament to how well they do their job—we comfortably go about our everyday lives because we know that these dedicated people stand ready to respond quickly and effectively in an emergency.

So it is appropriate to mark this anniversary by thanking those who provide us with this everyday security and who stand ready to risk their lives to protect us. Much of firefighting is undramatic—keeping equipment in condition, teaching fire prevention, anticipating causes of fire. But a life-and-death emergency is always only a 911 call away, and firefighters and their

families live with that constant risk. For that, we say thank you.

It is especially appropriate that the Houston Fire Museum, is sponsoring a celebration to honor these men and women for their 100 years of dedication and service. And I congratulate the museum on the service it provides in honoring firefighters and educating the public about the importance of fire safety and the history of the fire service.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Houston Fire Department and the men and women who have dedicated themselves to serving others. For 100 years, they have kept the city of Houston safe.

A NOT-SO-HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MEDICARE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Medicare Program—a program that has successfully provided much-needed health care benefits to millions of older Americans.

Unfortunately, there is a very dark side to this week's celebration. Medicare is under attack, and the new majority threatens to make deep and dangerous cuts in this critical program.

Their disdain for the Medicare system is not new. These are the same uncaring folks who 30 years ago claimed that Medicare was socialized medicine. The same people who fought every expansion of the program. The same people who last year, given the chance to save our health care system, said there was no crisis.

And now, the new majority has targeted Medicare to pay for their tax cuts for the wealthy. In return, 37 million seniors—people who have worked hard, paid their taxes all their life—will see their Medicare benefits slashed and their quality of care eroded.

Dipping into Medicare to make up for an unrelated tax cut is quite simply an outrage. Medicare is a sacred compact with America's seniors—not a fiscal candy jar.

Next year when we celebrate Medicare's anniversary, I want to be able to look seniors straight in the eye and say “yes, we have kept our word, and we have honored the compact we made with you.”

I know I'll keep my promise and I hope a new, new majority will do the same.

TRIBUTE TO CARLY JARMON

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 1995 Miss Texas, Carly Jarmon. I am pleased that Ms. Jarmon, representing the Oak Cliff area in my congressional district, will be competing in the Miss America Pageant in September.

Miss Jarmon is currently a sophomore at Texas Tech University in Lubbock where she is a public relations-advertising major. Upon

graduation, Miss Jarmon hopes to become a public relations advocate for charitable and nonprofit organizations.

A volunteer at Methodist Medical Center, Miss Jarmon has chosen organ and tissue donation awareness as the focus for her year of service as Miss Texas. Her “Circle of Life” message will be spread across the State of Texas, where she will speak to over 300,000 children and adults about the importance of organ donation.

This talented young woman is not only an inspiration to the residents of Oak Cliff, but she is also a great inspiration for the many Texans who will be cheering for her during the Miss America Pageant. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Miss Jarmon on her recent accomplishment, and I would also like to wish her lots of luck as she vies for the crown of Miss America 1995.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHNSON CHESTNUT WHITTAKER

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Johnson Chestnut Whittaker. This individual, one of the first black cadets to attend West Point, was posthumously commissioned as a second lieutenant by President Clinton in a White House ceremony earlier this week. The road to achieving this high honor has been long and arduous for the descendants of this distinguished American.

Many of us have followed closely recent press stories which detail a shameful incident in our Nation's history. In 1880, Johnson Chestnut Whittaker, a black West Point cadet, was found beaten and unconscious in his room. Although his legs had been tied and his face and hands were slashed, West Point administrators falsely accused Johnson of staging a racist attack on himself. Following a court martial in 1881, Johnson Chestnut Whittaker was expelled from the institution.

Mr. Speaker, despite the grave injustice which he suffered at West Point, Johnson Chestnut Whittaker persevered and made great achievements. During his lifetime he practiced law, served as a high school principal, and taught psychology. Johnson Whittaker died in 1931, never realizing that one day, his descendants would stand proudly to receive the rank and honor which was never afforded him by West Point.

One hundred and fifteen years following the West Point incident, and 64 years after the death of Johnson Chestnut Whittaker, his granddaughter, Cecil Whittaker Pequette, received the gold-plated bars from President Clinton, posthumously commissioning him as a second lieutenant. In his remarks at the White House ceremony, President Clinton noted that, “We cannot undo history. But today, finally, we can pay tribute to a great American and we can acknowledge a great injustice.”

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that many in this Chamber share the President's sentiments. I offer my heartfelt appreciation to Cecil Whittaker Pequette and other members of the Whittaker family for their unyielding pursuit of justice. We pause today in this Chamber to